

CHURCHES OF U. S. DURING YEAR ADD 747,000 TO MEMBERSHIP

Growth of Churches Is Greater Than Population Increase; Churches Are Growing More Rapidly in Membership Than Population Is Increasing; Gifts of Americans Lead World.

THE forthcoming Year Book of the Federal Council of Churches will show, so it is now known, that membership in Christian bodies increased faster than the population, and that in 1916 their combined membership passed the 40,000,000 mark. In the last quarter century Christian church membership grew 34 percent, according to the Federal Council, an official body, while population of the United States grew 41 percent.

The growth in 1916 was 747,000, or a little more than 200,000 greater than in 1915, and of which the Roman Catholic growth was 215,000 and the Protestant 532,000 in open figures. Roman Catholic statistics, it should be stated, put their church's growth at a somewhat larger figure, but one counts population, the other makes reduction for small children. In its course the council follows the government's rule. Sunday school membership figures grew last year also by more than 600,000, so that the United States leads all the world in Bible student numbers, and Bible circulation.

All of the large bodies are shown to be increasing in numbers steadily, and practically all make proportionate gains on the population. The standing of American bodies—the seven with memberships exceeding 1,000,000 are: Roman Catholic, 14,520,000; Methodist, 7,608,000; Baptist, 6,534,000; Lutheran, 2,451,000; Presbyterian, 2,117,000; Disciples, 1,337,000; Episcopal, 1,078,000.

Gifts Amount to \$415,000,000. New York adds financial data of churches for 1916 to membership data supplied by the Federal Council. It shows the total gifts of American people in 1916 to maintain Christian work in America and throughout the world to have been \$415,000,000. This is exclusive of \$45,000,000 given to European war relief, of which sum more than \$20,000,000, so the association asserts after careful study of donors, was given by members of churches and Jewish synagogues. The association states, in its report that American benevolence, in the largest measure, upon the 40,000,000 within the churches, rather than the 60,000,000 outside of them.

Americans Lead the World. Americans lead the world with gifts to foreign missions, their gifts in 1916 amounting to a little below \$28,000,000. These gifts increased rapidly since Europe went to war, and it is the belief of Christian leaders in America that if the United States goes to war with Germany missionary and benevolent gifts will increase still faster. The only church cause that fell off in 1916, so the association reports, was the building of new churches. Usually \$40,000,000 a year is put into new churches in the United States, often as much as \$60,000,000, but in 1916 and for the building season of 1917 no very large projects are in hand. Money is being expended in other directions, so that hardly half as much as the usual sum was spent on new American churches in 1916, and indications are the sum will be low in 1917.

The Christian money feature of 1916 in the United States, and running into 1917, is the clergy pension system. For these not less than \$60,000,000 is sought, and \$14,000,000 secured. The system being inaugurated are scientific for the first time. That is, they are based on mortality tables compiled by the great insurance companies. The successful operation of these systems will be, so the association states, its statement based on assertions of Christian leaders in all bodies, one of the big factors in making in the near future the \$1,675,000,000 invested in church properties accomplish twice as much as at present.

Church Buys a Theater. A Congregational church, which is only a few years old, has just purchased and dedicated to its use the largest theater in Chattanooga. The location is in the heart of the downtown district, and the theater is the usual order of churches escaping from such districts into residence ones. The city named has applied for two of the auditorium a large number of nights during the year, and been told that while it might have the same at a stiff rental, the Puritan restrictions about the use to which it was put would be as stiff as any restrictions are popularly supposed always to be. It is the purpose of the Congregationalists, it is said to make interior alterations to a considerable extent, and erect a second Tremont Temple, Boston.

There has been held in Chattanooga a conference of Congregational leaders from all southern states from Virginia to Texas, and plans made which it is believed will put Congregationalism in the southern states into a new rating within the next few years. In Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina and Oklahoma rural work is being enlarged. Hundreds of towns in these states have for years possessed churches in which services were held but once a month. Congregationalists announce a policy, supported in part with money from the north, of placing in these towns men who are specially trained to lead in rural work, such work to include every phase of country life, educational, social, even agriculture and horticulture. Men are now being supported in schools in the south who are to enter upon this rural work the moment they are graduated.

Did that itching keep you awake last night?

And how can you expect to sleep tonight unless you do something to relieve the trouble? Eczema and other itching skin troubles don't often heal themselves. But it is surprising how quickly

Resinol heals sick skins

Almost daily we hear from a skin-sufferer who says "Resinol Ointment stopped my itching at once and I got the first good night's sleep I had had in weeks. Now my skin is well."

Resinol Ointment is sold by druggists everywhere.

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Downtown Store Room

With Fine Basement, 30x80.
Electric Elevator.
At 208 Texas Street.

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We are moving to Everybody's Block, because we need more room for our continually growing business.

EL PASO PIANO CO.

Oldest Piano House in El Paso.

STOP CALOMEL! TAKE
DODSON'S LIVER TONE

New Discovery! Takes Place of Dangerous Calomel—It Puts Your Liver To Work Without Making You Sick—Eat Anything—It Can Not Salivate—Don't Lose a Day's Work!

I discovered a vegetable compound that does the work of dangerous, sickening calomel and I want every reader of this paper to try a bottle and if it doesn't straighten you up better and quicker than salivating calomel just go back to the store and get your money.

I guarantee that one spoonful of Dodson's Liver Tone will put your sluggish liver to work and clean your thirty feet of bowels of the sour bile and constipation poison which is clogging your system and making you feel miserable.

I guarantee that one spoonful of this harmless liquid liver medicine will relieve the headache, biliousness, coated tongue, ague, malaria, sour stomach or any other distress caused by a torpid liver as quickly as a dose of vile, nauseating calomel, besides it will not make you sick or keep you from

a day's work. I want to see a bottle of this wonderful liver medicine in every home here.

Calomel is poison—it's mercury—it attacks the bones, often causing rheumatism. Calomel is dangerous. It sickens—while my Dodson's Liver Tone is safe, pleasant and harmless. Eat anything afterwards, because it can not salivate. Give it to the children because it doesn't upset the stomach or shock the liver. Take a spoonful tonight and wake up feeling fine and ready for a full day's work.

Get a bottle! Try it! If it doesn't do exactly what I say, tell your dealer to hand your money back. Every druggist and store keeper here knows me and knows of my wonderful discovery of a vegetable medicine that takes the place of dangerous calomel.

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MRS. THACHER IS TO MAKE ADDRESS

Open Air Services In 20th
Infantry Camp To Be
Resumed Sunday.

If weather conditions are at all favorable there will be a resumption of the big open air services at the 20th infantry camp Sunday night, indoor services having been suspended by the quarantine order. With so many men to cheerfully assist, the rehabilitation of the open air plant was a simple matter and the entertainment work that was formerly conducted there is already in full swing.

Mrs. Thacher to Address Soldiers. Mrs. Ella Hoover Thacher, of Washington, D. C., for whom chaplain John T. Axton has been acting as almoner in the distribution of gifts toward welfare work among soldiers, is again to El Paso and will speak to the men Sunday night. She is national superintendent of that department of the Woman's Christian Temperance union, which specializes on temperance work among soldiers and sailors, and for many years has sought to provide these things which would help enlisted men and has also influenced legislation that has improved conditions surrounding army posts.

Major Samuel J. Smith, chaplain of the Eighth field artillery, chaplain Joseph Clemens, of the Fifth artillery, and chaplain William Brander, of the Eighth cavalry, have set up the program of activities for Mrs. Thacher, but some of the exercises for sick and prisoners had to be suspended. But these chaplains are giving Mrs. Thacher an opportunity to meet the men and study conditions.

To Begin at 7 O'clock. The program for Sunday night will begin at 7 o'clock and will have the usual selections by the 20th infantry band; solo, "Alone With Thee" (E. H. Bailey), by Miss Anna Axton; devotional exercises, led by chaplain Axton, and the address by Mrs. Thacher.

The order of worship is: Chorus, "Hail Ye Portals" (Gounod), 20th infantry band; doxology; band and congregation; invocation and Lord's prayer; chaplain Clemens' scripture; chaplain Brander; hymn, "All Round the World" (Mohl), assistant band leader Michael (Grim), band accompaniment; prayer; chaplain Smith; solo, "Alone With Thee" (Bailey), Miss Anna Axton; announcements; hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers" (John-Gould), band and congregation; address, Mrs. Ella Hoover Thacher; postlude, "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" (Pace), 20th infantry band; benediction; chaplain Axton.

The same provision that was made in the summer for parking automobiles will obtain and a section of seats will be reserved for the families of enlisted men and for visitors.

El Paso, Texas, and plans made which it is believed will put Congregationalism in the southern states into a new rating within the next few years. In Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina and Oklahoma rural work is being enlarged. Hundreds of towns in these states have for years possessed churches in which services were held but once a month. Congregationalists announce a policy, supported in part with money from the north, of placing in these towns men who are specially trained to lead in rural work, such work to include every phase of country life, educational, social, even agriculture and horticulture. Men are now being supported in schools in the south who are to enter upon this rural work the moment they are graduated.

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Four Touring	\$725
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Sentence Sermons By El Paso Ministers

FROM the following scriptures we learn that he who oppresses the poor is in general disfavor with God: "He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his maker." "Hear ye, that sell wheat making the measure small and the shekel (money) great, and deal falsely with weights. Surely I will never forget any of your sinful works." He that would sell food at 200 percent profit, to the poor and needy is no friend to suffering humanity.—Rev. Asher A. Davis, of the East El Paso Presbyterian church.

The light that never fails, the sun that never sets, the dayspring from on high dawn on us when we yield ourselves without reserve to the spirit and life of the Lord Jesus Christ.—Rev. Chas. L. Overstreet, of the First Presbyterian church.

Missionary activity is a propaganda in the interest of international good will. It is cheaper than war.—Rev. Perry J. Rice, of the First Christian church.

As we have opportunity why not sow words of love that will bring forth joy and sunshine, than words of discord that will bring forth heartache and sorrow? As one has said: "Who can be more unkind than to communicate our low spirits to others, to go about the world like demons, poisoning the fountains of joy."—Rev. Ed. L. Millican, of the East El Paso Baptist church.

We often ask, honestly and earnestly, why do we not have convictions and conversions more frequently at our regular services, as in former times? There is but one answer, a scriptural answer, "according to your faith be it unto you."—Rev. H. P. Bond, of the Highland Park M. E. church, south.

The Bible is perfection in plan and simplicity, and if its instruction is always sought, man is ever in the right way and God is leading him to a better country.—Rev. J. W. Dunn, of the Church of Christ.

From that dark day, down to this bright hour, there has never been such an extraordinary exhibition of faith as that shown by the bandit crucified by the Savior's side. At a time when Jesus was rejected by the rulers and reviled by the rabble, he believed on Him as king and petitioned a favor of Him when He came into His kingdom of glory. Doubtless he alone of all those in Jerusalem at that time believed that Jesus was a king.—Rev. C. K. Campbell, of Asbury Methodist church.

Make the best of everything, think the best of everybody, hope the best for yourself, and give to all, all love.—Rev. Frank C. Collins, of East El Paso Methodist church.

The Lord may try your faith by affliction or disappointment, not to find out how much faith you have, but to strengthen and develop what faith you have already.—Rev. W. C. Baber, of the Altura Presbyterian church.

Repentance was the burden of John the Baptist's preaching. It was the burden of Jesus' preaching. Practically repentance means a change of mind toward sin that results in a change of life. "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish."—Rev. J. F. Williams, of the First Baptist Church.

Short Open Air Service To Be Held Sunday Night At Seventh Infantry Camp

A ten minutes religious service will be held out of doors at the Seventh infantry auditorium Sunday night if the night is too cold for a longer service. When the order came forbidding the use of the Auditorium in order to safeguard the health of the men, chaplain Griffiths quickly erected outdoor mortars and so time was wasted. The big electric dining was moved to the open doorway, the seats were moved out into the open and the crowds kept coming. Some will be thrown upon the screen and sung. The band will play as usual and the chaplain will preach a five minutes' sermon and the movies will be run by the electric plant.

Miss Jennie Shuford, who has just reached 21 years of age, has been admitted to practice law in Massachusetts.

Mrs. Vernon Castle, the dancer, has gone to France to join her husband and help him in his recreation work.

WHY NOT VISIT Faywood Hot Springs FAYWOOD, N. M.

First since you will eventually go there any way? Conceded the greatest stomach and kidney water on earth.

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Wife Desertion

He left the house, got on a train and went away; he was never heard of from that day to this. The law charged wife desertion.

We called him every kind of a name and then we thought we had been gentle for behind him he left a wife, one of those noble women of God—and at her heart a sucking baby.

Think of that little woman with the child at her breast—a picture—not unlike Raphael's Madonna, with the Christ child.

What is your opinion of the man? My friend, some day you are going away on a trip—it's to a far land—no one has ever yet returned.

I wonder—Have you a wife at home? Better let us show you a real good policy.

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